



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EAST TEXAS MEN SENTENCED FOR FEDERAL FIREARMS VIOLATIONS

(Tyler, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that two men have been sentenced to federal prison for separate federal firearms violations in the District of Texas. The sentences were handed down today by United States District Judge Michael Schneider.

"The message sent to aggressively prosecute convicted felons found to be in possession of firearms, is not a threat, but a promise," Orwig stated in reference to his recently released public service announcement. "These cases are proof of that promise."

CLAUDE EARL CARNES, 45 of Marshall, received 81 months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to information presented in court, on October 31, 2005, Carnes possessed a short-barrel shotgun in Panola County. Carnes has prior felony convictions and is prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm or ammunition at any time. Carnes was previously convicted of possession of a controlled substance in Gregg County. This case was investigated by the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Ann Cozby.

TONY BENARD RICHARDSON, 37 of Longview, was sentenced to 120 months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to information presented in court, on September 18, 2005, the Longview Police Department responded to shots being fired near a local nightclub. Witnesses reported seeing Richardson with a firearm. Richardson was questioned and the firearm was recovered and determined not to be involved in the shooting. However, Richardson has prior felony convictions and is prohibited from possessing or owning a firearm or ammunition at any time. Richardson was previously convicted of possession of a controlled substance in Gregg County. This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Longview Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard L. Moore.

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